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1/8 Mar '88

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2012/07/17: CIA-RDP90G01353R001900030012-0

Washington, D. C. 20505

March 18, 1988

Dean Frederick Davis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law Memphis State University Memphis, Tennessee 38152

Dear Fred:

Thanks for your letter of March 4th, which arrived during an extended absence from the country. I have just returned.

I am complimented that the Student Bar Association would like for me to address the graduating class on Sunday, May 8th. I have a Board of Trustees meeting at Washington University that weekend and have plans to make one of my all too infrequent trips to my farm at Williamsburg. I hope you will understand my priorities at this moment and will extend my regrets to the Student Bar Association.

I recall how generous you were in rescheduling the commencement activities at Dayton so that I could attend and receive an honorary degree at Notre Dame the same day. Both events were true highlights for me. That places me in your debt, but I hope you will understand my wanting to adhere to original plans.

With warm regards and best wishes,

Sincerely,

William H. Webster

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MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38152

Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law March 4, 1988

Hon. William H. Webster Central Intelligence Agency Washington DC 20505

Dear Judge Webster:

On August 1, 1987, in violation of all sorts of vows taken during the last year of my term as dean at the University of Dayton, I undertook the deanship of this law school, and, wholly apart from the fact that it brings me much closer to my beloved Missouri, have found everything to do with it most delightful and enjoyable.

It may well be that your new position may cause you to be reluctant about accepting speaking engagements-and I realize that I am quite presumptuous to suggest this-but emboldened by the traditional advice from Judge Calvin Magruder to the effect that "there is no harm in asking". I am moved to report that the Student Bar Association has asked me to inquire whether you would be interested in addressing the graduating class of this law school at graduation ceremonies on Sunday, May 8, 1988.

I realize that you were gracious enough to honor a similar request in 1981, when you addressed the graduating class of the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio. However, I have been emboldened to attempt to squeeze the lemon twice because of my association with a perfectly delightful young man who is the President of the Student Bar Association here, and who has shown qualities of leadership and maturity above and beyond any of his many counterparts with whom I have had experience over the years.

Whether these associations are strong enough to move you to make the sacrifice we are requesting is quite problematical, but, rest assured, if you have not made a previous engagement, and are at all willing to honor this request, we will do everything in our power to make your appearance as hassle-free and enjoyable as possible.

In any event, thank you for whatever attention you may be able to give to this request, and whether you can come or not, I certainly do look forward to hearing from you.

All good wishes.

Frederick Davis

Professor of Law and Dean

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